

## WASHINGTON’S 2004 WINTER WHEAT HARVESTED ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1999

**Olympia** - The results of a State and National survey conducted in early June 2004 showed that Washington growers will harvest 1.70 million acres of winter wheat in 2004, the lowest acreage since 1.67 million acres were harvested in 1999. Acres harvested of barley, alfalfa hay, and sugarbeets will also be below 2003 while acres of spring wheat, field corn, hay (other than alfalfa) and dry beans will increase from 2003. Acres of oats cut for grain will be unchanged from last year. Ray Garibay, Director of the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service, states “A warm, dry spring until late May resulted in virtually all crop development being ahead of last year and the five-year average. Rain beginning in late May helped dryland fields, although there was damage to downed hay. By June 1, most growers were optimistic for most crops.”

Winter wheat acreage for harvest in 2004 is expected to total 1.70 million acres, 100,000 acres less than 2003. By mid-June, 91 percent of the winter wheat was headed compared with 80 percent in 2003. The warm, dry weather is promoting very good development. Spring wheat is expected to be cut on 555,000 acres, up from 545,000 acres last year. Barley acreage for harvested is expected to reach 280,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from last year’s crop.

All hay is expected to reach 790,000 acres, 20,000 acres below last year’s crop.

Field corn, oats, dry beans and sugarbeet acreage for harvest was also collected in the survey. Planted acres of field corn is up 30,000 acres from 2003 to 160,000 acres. Likewise, field corn for harvest is also above last year at an estimated 100,000 acres. Dry beans were planted on 35,000 acres, up 7,500 acres from 2003. This is also the estimated harvested acreage for 2004. Oat planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged from 2003 at 35,000 planted acres and 15,000 harvested acres, respectively.

**Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon and Idaho) showed all wheat 2004 harvested acreage down 4 percent from 2003 ending at 4.43 million acres. Growers in the PNW planted more other spring wheat acreage than previously planned. Barley acreage in the PNW for harvested ended at 1.08 million acres, down 8,000 acres from last year. Idaho was the only major barley State in which acreage increased from last year, by 10,000 for planted and 20,000 for harvested.

**Nationally** - The 2004 winter wheat planted area, at 43.5 million acres, is 3 percent below last year, but up fractionally from the previous estimate. Expected area harvested for grain is 34.8 million acres, 5 percent below the 2003 total. Harvested acreage declined from the previous estimate across much of the country, especially in the northern Great Plains where growers were plagued by dry spring weather and freeze damage.

Acreage planted to other spring wheat for 2004 is estimated at 13.7 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 13.2 million acres, 2 percent below last year’s level. Seeding in North Dakota began early. However, dry, windy weather during early May stressed the emerged crop.

**Next Crop Estimates:** The next estimates for field crops will be published July 12. Estimates will include acreage harvested, yield and production based on July 1 conditions for winter wheat, durum wheat, spring wheat other than durum, oats, and barley. Planted acres and indicated area harvested for fall potatoes will be published by states, in addition a percent of acreage planted by types for the combined 11 major states will be published. Also scheduled for release are estimates for the 2004 winter wheat, spring wheat and barley planted acres by district and county along with state and district estimates of acreage planted by variety for Washington.

### JUNE ACREAGE SUMMARY, 2003-2004

CROP	WASHINGTON				ACREAGE FOR HARVEST			
	Planted		Harvested		Pacific NW 1/		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004
Thousand Acres								
All Wheat	2,400	2,360	2,345	2,255	4,595	4,430	52,839	50,706
Winter Wheat	1,850	1,800	1,800	1,700	3,460	3,230	36,541	34,825
Spring Wheat	550	560	545	555	1,135	1,200	13,429	13,210
Barley	320	290	310	280	1,090	1,082	4,688	4,152
Oats 2/	35	35	15	15	60	65	2,224	1,938
Corn 2/	130	160	70	100	150	193	71,139	73,362
Alfalfa	-	-	510	480	2,200	2,110	23,578	22,226
Hay, Other	-	-	300	310	1,225	1,265	39,764	39,363
Dry Beans 3/	27.5	35.0	27.5	35.0	106.5	117.5	1,346.9	1,325.2
Sugarbeets	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.8	220.8	208.3	1,347.9	1,310.4

1/ Includes Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.  
2/ Planted acreage includes planted for all purposes; harvested acres for grain only.  
3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.